

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 515

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 7, 2011

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

To reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Belarus Democracy  
3 and Human Rights Act of 2011”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

5       Sections 2 and 3 of the Belarus Democracy Act of  
6 2004 (Public Law 109–480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9       “Congress finds the following:

10           “(1) The Government of Belarus has engaged  
11 in a pattern of clear and uncorrected violations of  
12 human rights and fundamental freedoms.

13           “(2) The Government of Belarus has engaged  
14 in a pattern of clear and uncorrected violations of  
15 basic principles of democratic governance, including  
16 through a series of fundamentally flawed presi-  
17 dential and parliamentary elections undermining the  
18 legitimacy of executive and legislative authority in  
19 that country.

20           “(3) The Government of Belarus has subjected  
21 thousands of pro-democratic political activists to  
22 harassment, beatings, and jailings, particularly as a  
23 result of their attempts to peacefully exercise their  
24 right to freedom of assembly and association.

25           “(4) The Government of Belarus has attempted  
26 to maintain a monopoly over the country’s informa-

tion space, targeting independent media, including independent journalists, for systematic reprisals and elimination, while suppressing the right to freedom of speech and expression of those dissenting from the dictatorship of Aleksandr Lukashenka, and adopted laws restricting the media, including the Internet, in a manner inconsistent with international human rights agreements.

“(5) The Government of Belarus continues a systematic campaign of harassment, repression, and closure of nongovernmental organizations, including independent trade unions and entrepreneurs, and this crackdown has created a climate of fear that inhibits the development of civil society and social solidarity.

“(6) The Government of Belarus has subjected leaders and members of select ethnic and religious minorities to harassment, including the imposition of heavy fines and denying permission to meet for religious services, sometimes by selective enforcement of the 2002 Belarus religion law.

“(7) The Government of Belarus has attempted to silence dissent by persecuting human rights and pro-democracy activists with threats, firings, expulsions, beatings and other forms of intimidation, and

1 restrictions on freedom of movement and prohibition  
2 of international travel.

3 “(8) The dictator of Belarus, Aleksandr  
4 Lukashenka, established himself in power by orches-  
5 trating an illegal and unconstitutional referendum  
6 that enabled him to impose a new constitution, abol-  
7 ishing the duly elected parliament, the 13th Su-  
8 preme Soviet, installing a largely powerless National  
9 Assembly, extending his term in office, and removing  
10 applicable term limits.

11 “(9) The Government of Belarus has failed to  
12 make a convincing effort to solve the cases of dis-  
13 appeared opposition figures Yuri Zakharenka, Viktor  
14 Gonchar, and Anatoly Krasovsky and journalist  
15 Dmitry Zavadsky, even though credible allegations  
16 and evidence links top officials of the Government to  
17 these disappearance.

18 “(10) The Government of Belarus has re-  
19 stricted freedom of expression on the Internet by re-  
20 quiring Internet Service Providers to maintain data  
21 on Internet users and the sites they view and to pro-  
22 vide such data to officials upon request, and by cre-  
23 ating a government body with the authority to re-  
24 quire Internet Service Providers to block Web sites.

1           “(11) On December 19, 2010, the Government  
2           of Belarus conducted a presidential election that  
3           failed to meet the standards of the Organization for  
4           Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for  
5           democratic elections.

6           “(12) After the December 19, 2010, presi-  
7           dential election the Government of Belarus re-  
8           sponded to opposition protests by beating scores of  
9           protestors and detaining more than 600 peaceful  
10          protestors.

11          “(13) After the December 19, 2010, presi-  
12          dential election the Government of Belarus jailed  
13          seven of the nine opposition presidential candidates  
14          and abused the process of criminal prosecution to  
15          persecute them.

16          “(14) After the December 19, 2010, presi-  
17          dential election, the Government of Belarus dis-  
18          rupted independent broadcast and Internet media,  
19          and engaged in repressive actions against inde-  
20          pendent journalists.

21          “(15) After the December 19, 2010, presi-  
22          dential election, Belarusian security services and po-  
23          lice conducted raids targeting civil society groups,  
24          individual pro-democracy activists, and independent  
25          media.

1           “(16) After the December 19, 2010, presi-  
2           dential election, Belarusian officials refused to ex-  
3           tend the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk.

4           “(17) After the December 19, 2010, presi-  
5           dential election, opposition candidates and activists  
6           have been persecuted and detainees have been phys-  
7           ically mistreated, and denied access to family, de-  
8           fense counsel, medical treatment, and open legal  
9           proceedings.

10          “(18) After the December 19, 2010, presi-  
11          dential election, lawyers representing those facing  
12          criminal charges related to the post-election protest  
13          have been subjected to the revocation of licenses,  
14          disbarment, and other forms of pressure.

15          “(19) After the December 19, 2010, presi-  
16          dential election, the Government of Belarus has con-  
17          victed political detainees to harsh prison sentences.

18          “(20) After the December 19, 2010, presi-  
19          dential election, the United States and European  
20          Union imposed targeted travel and financial sanc-  
21          tions on an expanded list of officials of the Govern-  
22          ment of Belarus.

23          “(21) After the December 19, 2010, presi-  
24          dential election, the United States fully restored  
25          sanctions against Belarus’s largest state-owned pe-

1       troleum and chemical conglomerate and all of its  
2       subsidiaries.

3           “(22) After the December 19, 2010, presi-  
4       dential election, the United States has engaged in  
5       assistance efforts to provide legal and humanitarian  
6       assistance to those facing repression and preserving  
7       access to independent information, and has pledged  
8       resources to support human rights advocates, trade  
9       unions, youth and environmental groups, business  
10      associations, think-tanks, democratic political parties  
11      and movements, independent journalists, newspapers  
12      and electronic media operating both inside Belarus  
13      and broadcasting from its neighbors, and to support  
14      access of Belarusian students to independent higher  
15      education and expand exchange programs for busi-  
16      ness and civil society leaders.

17           “(23) The Department of State, the Depart-  
18      ment of the Treasury, and other executive branch  
19      agencies have heretofore made effective use of this  
20      Act to promote the purposes of this Act, as stated  
21      in section 3 of this Act.

22   **“SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

23           “‘It is the policy of the United States to—

24           “(1) condemn the conduct of the December 19,  
25      2010, presidential election and crackdown on opposi-

1       tion candidates, political leaders, and activists, civil  
2       society representatives, and journalists;

3           “(2) continue to call for the immediate release  
4       without preconditions of all political prisoners in  
5       Belarus, including all those individuals detained in  
6       connection with the December 19, 2010, presidential  
7       election;

8           “(3) continue to support the aspirations of the  
9       people of Belarus for democracy, human rights, and  
10      the rule of law;

11          “(4) continue to support the aspirations of the  
12      people of Belarus to preserve the independence and  
13      sovereignty of their country;

14          “(5) continue to support the growth of demo-  
15      cratic movements and institutions in Belarus, which  
16      empower the people of Belarus to end tyranny in  
17      their country;

18          “(6) continue to refuse to accept the results of  
19      the fundamentally flawed December 19, 2010, presi-  
20      dential election held in Belarus, and to support calls  
21      for new presidential and parliamentary elections,  
22      conducted in a manner that is free and fair accord-  
23      ing to OSCE standards;



1           “(7) continue to call for the fulfillment by the  
2           Belarusian government of Belarus’s freely under-  
3           taken obligations as an OSCE participating state;

4           “(8) continue to call for a full accounting of the  
5           disappearances of opposition leaders and journalists  
6           in Belarus, including Victor Gonchar, Anatoly  
7           Krasovsky, Yuri Zakharenka, and Dmitry Zavadsky,  
8           and the prosecution of those individuals who are in  
9           any way responsible for the disappearance of those  
10          opposition leaders and journalists;

11          “(9) continue to work closely with the Euro-  
12          pean Union and other countries and international  
13          organizations, to promote the conditions necessary  
14          for the integration of Belarus into the European  
15          family of democracies;

16          “(10) call on the International Ice Hockey Fed-  
17          eration to suspend its plan to hold the 2014 Inter-  
18          national World Ice Hockey championship in Minsk  
19          until the Government of Belarus releases all political  
20          prisoners; and

21          “(11) remain open to reevaluating United  
22          States policy toward Belarus as warranted by de-  
23          monstrable progress made by the Government of  
24          Belarus consistent with the aims of this Act as stat-  
25          ed in this section.”.

1 **SEC. 3. RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING TO**  
2 **BELARUS.**

3 Section 5 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
4 (Public Law 109–480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended  
5 to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 5. RADIO, TELEVISION, AND INTERNET BROAD-**  
7 **CASTING TO BELARUS.**

8 “It is the sense of Congress that the President should  
9 continue to support radio, television, and Internet broad-  
10 casting to the people of Belarus in languages spoken in  
11 Belarus, by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the Voice  
12 of America, European Radio for Belarus, and Belsat.”.

13 **SEC. 4. SANCTIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF**  
14 **BELARUS.**

15 Section 6 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
16 (Public Law 109–480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amend-  
17 ed—

18 (1) in subsection (b)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or ex-  
20 pression, including those individuals jailed  
21 based on political beliefs or expression in con-  
22 nection with repression that attended the presi-  
23 dential election of December 19, 2010” before  
24 the period at the end;

25 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, in-  
26 cluding politically motivated legal charges made

1 in connection with repression that attended the  
2 presidential election of December 19, 2010” be-  
3 fore the period at the end;

4 (C) in paragraph (5), by inserting “and  
5 violations of human rights, including violations  
6 of human rights committed in connection with  
7 the presidential election of December 19, 2010”  
8 before the period at the end; and

9 (D) in paragraph (7), by striking “inter-  
10 nationally recognized observers” and inserting  
11 “OSCE observers”;

12 (2) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) in paragraph (2)—

14 (i) by striking “subparagraph (A)”  
15 and inserting “paragraph (1)”; and

16 (ii) by striking “or” at the end;

17 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-  
18 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
20 paragraphs:

21 “(4) is a member of any branch of the security  
22 or law enforcement services of Belarus and has par-  
23 ticipated in the violent crackdown on opposition  
24 leaders, journalists, and peaceful protestors that oc-

1 curred in connection with the presidential election of  
2 December 19, 2010; or

3 “(5) is a member of any branch of the security  
4 or law enforcement services of Belarus and has par-  
5 ticipated in the persecution or harassment of reli-  
6 gious groups, human rights defenders, democratic  
7 opposition groups, or independent media or journal-  
8 ists.”;

9 (3) in subsection (e), by striking “of each inter-  
10 national financial institution to which” and inserting  
11 “at each international financial institution of  
12 which”; and

13 (4) in subsection (f)(2)(B)(ii), by striking “(as  
14 defined in section 40102 of title 49, United States  
15 Code)”.

16 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

17 Section 8(a) of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
18 (Public Law 109–480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amend-  
19 ed—

20 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
21 striking “this Act” and inserting “the Belarus De-  
22 mocracy and Human Rights Act of 2011”;

23 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “sale or deliv-  
24 ery of weapons or weapons-related technologies” and  
25 inserting “sale or delivery or provision of weapons or

1 weapons-related technologies or weapons-related  
2 training”;

3 (3) in paragraph (2), by striking “involved in  
4 the sale” and inserting “or weapons-related training  
5 involved in the sale or delivery or provision”;

6 (4) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or weapons-  
7 related training described in paragraph (1)” before  
8 the period at the end; and

9 (5) by adding at the end the following new  
10 paragraph:

11 “(5) The cooperation of the Government of  
12 Belarus with any foreign government or organization  
13 for purposes related to the censorship or surveillance  
14 of the Internet, or the purchase or receipt by the  
15 Government of Belarus of any technology or training  
16 from any foreign government or organization for  
17 purposes related to the censorship or surveillance of  
18 the Internet.”.

19 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

20 Section 9 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004  
21 (Public Law 109–480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amend-  
22 ed—

23 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Committee  
24 on International Relations” and inserting “Com-  
25 mittee on Foreign Affairs”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (3)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking  
3 “and prosecutors” and inserting “, prosecutors,  
4 and heads of professional associations and edu-  
5 cational institutions”; and

6 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
7 “Lukashenka regime” and inserting “Govern-  
8 ment of Belarus”.

9 **SEC. 7. FUNDING FOR REPORT.**

10 The requirement to prepare and transmit the report  
11 required under section 8 of the Belarus Democracy Act  
12 of 2004 (Public Law 109–480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note), as  
13 amended by section 5 of this Act, shall be performed with-  
14 in current levels of authorized and appropriated funding.

Passed the House of Representatives July 6, 2011.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*